

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-07

INFO OCT-01 ARAE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-02 L-03 H-01 DHA-02

INR-07 INRE-00 SNM-02 IGA-02 SS-15 /042 W  
-----071818Z 059287 /41

O 071700Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4372

CONFIDENTIAL LA PAZ 1693

STADIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CASC, BL  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

REF: STATE 49657

1. IN PURSUANCE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL I CALLED ON BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AIR FORCE GENERAL ADRIAZOLA, AND PRESENTED THE VIEWS OF THE USG ON AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA. I REVIEWED THE GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PARA 2 AND DISCUSSED THE LENGTHY DELAY IN TRIALS OUTLINED IN PARA 3. I NOTED THE PROBLEMS IN PARA 4 ABOUT HEALTH AND WELFARE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF SEVERAL OF THE MALE PRISONERS. I OUTLINED THE SERIOUS PURPOSE OF THE USG IN CONTINUING DRUG CONTROL AND INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5. I USED THE LANGUAGE OF PARA 6 ABOUT USG CONCERNS AND EXPECTATIONS. I ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONVERSATION THE COMMENTS ON US/BOLIVIAN RELATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 7.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REQUIRED SEVERAL MINUTES OF CAREFUL ORIENTATION BEFORE HE FULLY GRASPED THE USG POSITION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND OUR CONTUNUED DESIRE TO HAVE PROMPT AND JUST TRIALS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS APPREHENDED. HE NOTED THAT WHEN RECENTLY IN SANTA CRUZ ACCOMPANYING THE VISITING SPANISH DUKE OF CADIZ SEVERAL AMERICAN CITIZENS HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES. HIS GENERAL IMPRESSION HAD BEEN THAT THOSE AWAITING SENTENCING WERE GROSS VIOLATORS. AFTER REVIEWING EACH CASE

WITH HIM, I NOTED THAT HE NOW SEES THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CATEGORIES OF CASES INVOLVING SICK, ADDICTS, WEAK CASES, MINOR OFFENSES, AND OTHERS WITH GRAVER OFFENSES. AFTER FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP THE SITUATION PROMPTLY WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND WITH PRESIDENT BANZER AND SEEK A PROMPT SOLUTION TO THOSE CATEGORIES OF CASES SO MERITING AND ALSO TO ATTEMPT TO ACCELERATE UNDER THE NEW LAW ALL CASES OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS OFFENSES. HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO RAISE THE SUBJECT IN THE NEXT CABINET MEETING AND HE FELT SURE THAT THE GOB WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK THIS MATTER OUT PROMPTLY.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FOUND ANALOGOUS ASPECTS TO THE CASES OF SEVERAL BOLIVIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAT CERTAIN PRISONERS WERE BEING DETAINED FOR JUDICIAL PROCESSING ONLY ON THE GROUNDS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH A BONA FIDE POLITICAL DISSENTER. HE SAID BOLIVIA IS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS IMAGE ABROAD AND IS TAKING STEPS TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESSING OF ANYONE PICKED UP ON POLITICAL CHARGES AND THAT A SIMILAR PROCEDURE MUST BE ADOPTED ON PERSONS PICKED UP ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. HE SAID STEPS WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE POLITICAL PRISONERS PROBLEM AND HE FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WELL DISPOSED TO MOVE SIMILARLY AND RAPIDLY ON US PRISONERS.

4. I AM PURSUING A REQUEST TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR AN EARLY APPOINTMENT AND WILL REPORT ON THAT CONVERSATION. IF, AS A RESULT OF BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS, WE DETECT NO DEMONSTRABLE MOVEMENT BY THE END OF THE WEEK, I PLAN TO SOLICIT CONFIDENTIAL

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AN APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH PRESIDENT BANZER.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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